

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

June 2, 2021

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh 9/9
Don McCormick 9/9
Kay Tvaroch 7/9
Debra Anlauf 9/9
Erick Toth 6/9
Maria Greenberg 7/9
Fred Pazona 8/9

Present

William Dryburgh
Don McCormick
Debra Anlauf
Erick Toth
Maria Greenberg
Fred Pazona

Absent

Kay Tvaroch

County Representatives

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Tina Powell, Natural Resources Manager
Mike Koenig, Resource Manager
Mike Norton, Recreation Supervisor
Marc Solomon, Recreation Superintendent
Erin Murphy, Recreation Superintendent
Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

Guests

Paul Martinowicz

Chairman William Dryburgh welcomed members, staff and visitors to the meeting.

- Roll Call
- Minutes

Fred Pazona brought to the attention an omission in the Citizen's Input section of the May Minutes, by stating that Patrick Jerek's comments were not recorded. After discussion by the members it was concluded the comments were included in the May minutes, but the minute taker only referred to Patrick Jerek as "Citizen" due to not having the citizen's name.

Motion to correct the last comment under Citizen Input to include "Citizen Patrick Jerek" and approve the May 2021 Minutes made by Don McCormick, 2nd by Maria Greenberg and was unanimously approved.

William Dryburgh called for Fred Pazona to apologize to Tommy Scott for the comment made towards Mr. Scott at last month's meeting. Fred Pazona stated he had planned on apologizing during the Member Issues portion of the meeting, and went on to say he probably offended more than one individual in the room and apologized for the word he used, and in the future he will think through which words and phrases he uses. William Dryburgh asked again that Fred Pazona apologize to Tommy Scott. Fred Pazona said I apologize to anyone I offended in the room.

- Division Reports – April 2021

- Old Business
 - **Sunshine Law** – Tommy Scott shared a video of Janette Knowlton, County Attorney explaining the rules and regulations of the Sunshine Law which has two parts, the “Open Meeting Law” and “Public Records”.

 - **Pool follow-up** – Tommy Scott, Director passed out a spreadsheet of pool activities showing 14 user groups using the four county pools. The spreadsheet was revised from the original version to make it easier to read due to the large amount of information in contained. The spreadsheet broke down into percentages which groups were utilizing the pools, how often and the availability to all users. Tommy Scott also pointed out that with no capacity restrictions now, we anticipate the numbers will go back to what we have typically seen during pre-covid with a larger number of recreational swimmers.

Pool operations in Charlotte County are very complicated to operate and provide proper resources need for the community, and we work to constantly balance the user groups to provide access to everyone using the pools.

Don McCormick noticed water aerobics having the least attendance, and asked would this indicate that they should be given more time? Tommy Scott replied the spreadsheet data was done during Covid and these numbers will change in a non-covid environment.

Fred Pazona also addressed Don McCormick's question by stating that water aerobics varies from pool to pool, Port Charlotte pool has a large water aerobics attendance and social environment and is instructor based. Centennial is a new facility and once people get accustomed to the instructors and it becomes more social the attendance will go up.

Fred Pazona commented that the only short-term remedy would be to extend pool hours to have a couple extra hours in the evening and stated in the future he sees the county adding another pool to meet the growth in Charlotte County. Tommy Scott replied that the 1% sales tax has a Tier 2 Project that will make the Port Charlotte Beach pool a community size pool.

Don McCormick commented that statistically the spreadsheet is showing that one quarter of the county's population are using the pools and complimented the staff on doing an amazing job with the handling of operations with so few complaints. Tommy Scott thanked Mr. McCormick and replied, our team and staff are professionals and are phenomenal at their job.

Tommy Scott addressed the state industry standard on lifeguard coverage which was also a concern at last month's meeting. Tommy presented a handout that stated there is not a state standard, the only reference is in the Florida Admin Code which states "Lifeguards or swim instructors, if provided, shall be in full charge of persons using the pool and shall have authority to enforce all rules" There is nothing stating the number of lifeguards required present for number of patrons or size of pool.

We have developed our own Aquatics Operations Manual for the county standards based upon the State of Florida and the American Red Cross which were all outlined in the handout.

Tommy Scott said the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has requested that this information along with extending hours of operation be presented at the June 15th BCC Workshop and this information will be brought back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) for discussion.

Also, Tommy Scott addressed a letter from a West County resident that was sent to all members of the board inquiring about long course swim schedule at the Centennial Pool, which he informed the board that he and his staff would follow-up with this resident.

- New Business

- I. **Fee Schedule** – Tommy Scott, passed out the Community Services Department Fee Schedule for June 2021. One of the accreditation requirements is that we review a myriad of items including the fee schedule in order to make recommendations, Tommy Scott went through the schedule and any changes that were made.

Motion to accept the Community Services Department Fee Schedule recommendations made by Erick Toth, 2nd by Maria Greenberg and was unanimously approved.

- II. **Summer Camp update** – Erin Murphy, Recreation Superintendent reviewed the Summer Camp schedule handout including registration process, scholarships, staffing requirements and special programs which included *Stealth Mobile Laser Tag*, *Hammer & Stain*, *Bricks for Kidz*, *Do The Happy Bounce* and *Bisque-It Studios* along with several guest speakers scheduled. The handout also showed the camp sessions and pricing and Erin Murphy shared that camp is completely full at all facilities.

- Sports Council Update – Erick Toth

May 2021

- Went through the volunteer club surveys.
 - Reviewed *Kids to Park Day* (County Rec-2-U mobile program that takes kids to visit parks and different sports activities).
 - Went through club documentation for all the Youth Sports Councils and updated all the membership applications.
 - Went through facility fueled questions with Monty Rodriguez.
- Member Issues
 - Fred Pazona asked how citizen's concerns will be addressed and responded to going forward and suggested that Community Services staff should formally respond. After a lengthy discussion by the board members it was decided that citizens' concerns will not be followed-up formerly, but once any concern is heard they are and will continue to be looked into by forwarding the concern to the correct department/staff/or BCC to solve issues.
 - Commissioner Doherty commented that any citizen should contact him for answers by calling or emailing him and said there is a process in place in administration, and it is his role and responsibility to look into and research any concerns and respond to the citizen.
- Directors Report
 - Tommy Scott commented on the outcome of a couple public meetings held recently, one being at GC Herring Park involving the sales tax project and said there was a tremendous amount of feedback and input, most of which was on beach volleyball, and stated that project is slated to be funded in 2023, 2024 & 2026. Also, at Bissett Park's public meeting Tommy Scott commented there was a good size crowd of all ages and some great feedback was received along with positive comments on what the citizens would like to see happen in the park.
 - Tommy Scott informed the board of the upcoming "Arts in the Park" a free event that is part of new program being started, to take place on June 12th at McGuire Park located at 32236 McGuire Ave, Port Charlotte FL 33952. Charlotte County Community Services partnered with Charlotte County Human Services and brought in the Community Foundation and Punta Gorda Symphony to bring a day of fun activities to the public including live music performed by the Punta Gorda Symphony Wind Ensemble, crafts, games, nature scavenger hunt, sports activities, water activities, art display, community poem and more.
 - Tommy Scott added to Don McCormick's earlier comment of Sport Council winning National Association of Counties awards and shared that Community Services has put in several applications for the last few years and in addition to *Sport Council* winning an award there was also *Back to School Bash* and *Virtual*

Training that won as well, and told the board how proud he was of the staff and their hard work.

- Citizens Input
 - Citizen Paul Martinowicz commented on how citizen concerns are being addressed and expressed that he does not feel his concerns have been heard and that they are being dismissed without response.
- Maria Greenberg asked Mr. Martinowicz, if after looking at the spreadsheet handed out earlier of the pool usage and percentages; does he now see that there are several groups using the pools and it is a fluid situation that is being continually worked on so that everyone can be accommodated at the pools.
- Paul Martinowicz responded that his question was not with numbers on the spreadsheet or swimming, but the way he his concerns are being dismissed with no response.
- Commissioner Doherty responded to Mr. Martinowicz by asking him to please attend the BCC Workshop on June 15th where the pool operations and updates will be discussed by all five commissions and you will see that these issues were heard and are being worked on. Commissioner Doherty also said finding solutions does take time but advised Mr. Martinowicz to attend every BCC meeting and Workshop he can find time for to stay informed on how citizens' concerns are being discussed and progress is being made.
- Announcement
- Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Joe Tiseo, District 5
Hector Flores, County Administrator
Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator